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Minutes, Oct. 12

VISION 2020 STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 12, 2010 MEETING Approved Nov. 10, 2010

In attendance: Paul Bayer, Bruce Fitzsimmons, Joey Glushko, Jane Howard, Elizabeth Karpati, Josh Lobel, Joanne Robinson, Cindy Starks, Brian Sullivan.

Town Day wrapup:

We need something to attract people to our table – something interactive, or “hawkers,” or a different setup, e.g. a U-shaped table arrangement, and fewer different items on the table.

A support for one of the boards disappeared while in storage.

There was some confusion about space allocation for different committees at setup.

See more detailed notes from Spy Pond Committee attached as a P.S.

Open Meeting law (report from Bruce Fitzsimmons):

SJC ruled in the Wayland case that substantive e-mail communication is prohibited even if fewer members than a quorum participate, because e-mails can be forwarded to the rest.

Vision 2020 operates often by consensus rather than formal votes – is that now prohibited?

All elements of a project (except ones like scheduling a meeting) must now be conducted at open meetings. Drafts must be revised at meetings, not by e-mailed rounds of comments.

Joey noted that ad hoc groups created for a single task (e.g. the census survey questionnaire) do not fall under the law, per Juliana Rice.

Elizabeth asked whether allowing substantive e-mails as long as a copy is posted on the same site as minutes and agendas would fulfill the letter of the law.

The School Committee meeting scheduled for tonight had to be postponed because they forgot about yesterday's holiday and did not post the agenda two business days in advance.

We agreed that we need to express our frustration with the obstacles posed by the law to our state representatives.

They all have office hours at the Senior Center. They could be asked to meet with this committee, but only after the election. Bruce will talk to Sean Garballey. Brian Sullivan suggested that Jane should talk to Juliana Rice.

Census Survey:

The 2010 survey was the most successful ever in terms of returns: nearly 5000 including stragglers. But some wording was questioned: “desirable” as a choice for an override???

For 2011 Jane suggested both “hard” (budget and services) and “soft” questions. Topics already proposed for “soft” questions:

From Arlington Scenic Byway/Tourism /Economic Development Committee: expanding business; how often residents use Town attractions and events.

From Sustainable Arlington: PAYT (Pay As You Throw), to be renamed SMART (Save Money And Reduce Trash); energy use; electric vehicle infrastructure; water infrastructure; car sharing and bike sharing.

Our results won't come in until after the decision on whether to ask for an override must be made, but will be available by the time Town Meeting begins.

Subcommittee to develop the survey will meet Wednesday, Oct. 27 at 7:30 a.m. in the first floor conference room.

Other business:

The September minutes were accepted with one correction.

Sustainable Arlington is looking into curbside composting and composting food waste from stores, etc.; may suggest a survey question on what people do with food waste.

Spy Pond: Phragmites treatment is scheduled for tomorrow, October 13. The phragmites fund stands at slightly over \$9000.

The Scenic Byways, etc. committee is getting organized and working on a mission statement.

P.S. From October 5 Spy Pond Committee minutes:

Town Day:

The display of pictures of the Rt. 2 path workdays drew a lot of attention but few people came to the table to ask questions or pick up literature.

What do we need to get people to the table? Something interactive? Someone standing in front of the table?

Different arrangement, e.g. a U-shape? Fewer items on the table?

Maybe we should have a particular focus each year, e.g. invasive plants (the Open Space Committee had a display about them this year), or recreation on the pond (display a kayak?). Keep thinking throughout the year about how to improve the Town Day table.

"Housekeeping" notes: Preparation should start earlier than the meeting preceding Town Day, especially if we are making changes. Set-up and take-down should be better organized. Do we need more staffing at the table?